



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/499,705	02/08/2000	Henry Chuang	LEE1P005	1643

23995 7590 01/21/2003

RABIN & CHAMPAGNE, PC
1101 14TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

DINH, TUAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2827

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/499,705

Applicant(s)

CHUANG ET AL

Examiner

Tuan T Dinh

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-9 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 8/20/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues:

(a) the insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the at least one slot" in claims 6 and 11.

(b) Leman discloses an ATX motherboard that is not comply with a Flex or Micro ATX specification type of motherboards.

(d) Leman does not show the raiser card being utilized to change the dimensions of the motherboard for complying with other motherboard specifications or the raiser card (30) is not type of motherboard configuration.

Examiner disagrees.

Response to argument (a), applicant recites the limitation "for providing at least one slot" in claims 1 and 7, which is a functional language and not provide a structure of claims 1 and 7; therefore, the claims 6 and 11 have an insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the at least one slot."

Response to argument (b), Leman shows the ATX motherboard (column 1, line 50) which composite a structure of Flex or Micro ATX motherboards. Even though, the Flex or Micro ATX motherboards which are a special type of the ATX motherboard, both

having functions or at least have some functions as type of the ATX motherboard.

Therefore, the ATX motherboard comprises either the Flex/Micro ATX motherboard.

Response to argument (d), examiner would clarify the term of "a motherboard" as a main circuit board of a computer, the main circuit board has at least one daughter board or expansion board connected. Leman shows a raiser card (30a) in figure 2 capable of being a main circuit board or a motherboard having at least daughter boards or expansion boards (50a; 30b) connected. The motherboard (30a) has a dimension for all daughter boards connected to and can be act as like an ATX type motherboard as describe in column 1, line 50.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the at least one slot" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the at least one slot" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Leman (U. S. Patent 6,261,104).

Leman discloses as to claim 1 a motherboard assembly (chassis 12, column 3, line 13) comprising:

A raiser card (30a-figure 2, column 4, line 26) capable of being a motherboard complying with one of a Flex ATX specification and a Micro ATX specification (column 1, lines 48-50), it should be noted that Leman broadly discloses an ATX card (any type of ATX card); and

an expansion card (30b, column 4, line 27) detachably connected to said motherboard for providing at least one slot (32b, column 4, line 36),

wherein when said expansion board (30b) is connected to said motherboard, said motherboard and said expansion card are arranged in a coplanar fashion (see figures 2-4 and 6) so that said motherboard assembly complies with one of the Micro ATX specification and an ATX specification when said motherboard complies with the Flex ATX specification, and complies with the ATX specification when said motherboard complies with the Micro ATX specification.

Leman discloses as to claim 2 the motherboard assembly (12) wherein said motherboard (30a-figure 2, column 4, line 26), at first edge (31-figure 1, column 3, line 30) thereof, is provided with a first connection device (32b-figures 1-2, column 3, line 32); and

said expansion board (30b), at a second edge thereof, is provided with a second connection device (32a-figure 2) for making connection thereof to the first connection device (32b).

Leman discloses as to claim 3 the motherboard assembly shown in figures 2-4, and 6 wherein when the expansion board is connected to the motherboard. The second edge is adjacent to the first edge.

As best understood to claim 6, Leman discloses a motherboard assembly (12) wherein said first connector device (32b) and second connection device (32a) comprise a first bus (connector 32b and 32a connect together, see figures 2-3, and 6); at least one slot of the expansion card (30b) comprises a slot (32b-figures 2-3) of a second bus (not shown).

Leman discloses as to claim 7 a motherboard assembly (12) comprising:
a motherboard (30a) having a Flex ATX specification (column 1, lines 48-50);
said first expansion board (30b) being detachably connected to said motherboard (30a) having at least one first slot (32b-see figure 2), wherein when said first expansion board (30b) is connected to said motherboard (30a), said motherboard assembly has a Micro ATX specification;
a second expansion boards (not shown);

Note: regarding figures 2 and 3, a computer 10 (Leman) might disclose more than one connection cards (i.e. a third card or a forth card,...) connecting to a top connector 32b-figure 2 of an expansion card 30b, or 132b-figure 3 of expansion card 130b;

said second expansion board (not shown) being detachably connected to said first expansion board (30b) having at least one second slot (not shown); and

wherein when the second expansion board is connected to the first expansion board and the first expansion board is connected to the motherboard at the same time arranging in a coplanar fashion (see figures 2-3), and said motherboard assembly has a ATX specification.

Leman discloses as to claim 8 the motherboard assembly (12) wherein the motherboard (30a), at a first edge (31) thereof, is provided with a first connection device (32b), and the first expansion board (30b), at a second edge thereof, is provided with a second connection device (32a) for making connection thereof to the first connection device, and

said first expansion board, at a third edge thereof, is provided with a third connection device (32b-figure 2) on a third edge thereof, and the second expansion board (not shown), at a fourth edge thereof, is provided with a fourth connection device for making connection thereof to the third connection device (not shown, see figures 2-3) (see note of claim 7).

Leman discloses as to claim 9 the motherboard assembly shown in figures 2-3 wherein when the first expansion board (30b) is connected to the motherboard (30a),

the second edge is adjacent to the first edge (31), and wherein when the second expansion board is inherently connected to the first expansion board, the fourth edge is adjacent to the third edge (see note of claim 7).

As best understood to claim 11, Leman discloses the motherboard assembly (12) shown in figures 2-3 wherein the first and second connection devices (32b, 32a) comprise a first bus, respectively.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

Application/Control Number: 09/499,705
Art Unit: 2827

Page 8

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Talbott can be reached on 703-305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-1341 for regular communications and 703-308-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TD
November 14, 2002.


ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER